



The Shores of South Devon
(marine life interest association)
www.shoresofsouthdevon.org.uk



Devon's Coastal Geology

by

Dr Jenny Bennett

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Tuesday 10th October 2023 1930 h

via Zoom. No admission charge, but non-members must email for sign in details by 8th (see www.shoresofsouthdevon.org.uk/contact/) or use Eventbrite

Jenny's talk is essentially a repeat of the excellent talk she gave at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club in March. The geology of Devon is more varied than that of any other British county. We have two coasts, the UNESCO Riviera Geopark in Torbay and part of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites - the Jurassic Coast, and the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape Site.

This range in rock types is likely to govern different off shore habitats, so I shall describe rock types and their properties.. A good example of differing physical properties is the contrast between the eroding red sandstone cliffs in East Devon and Torbay, and the much more resistant rocks elsewhere along the coast.. The geological history of Devon is complex, ranging from rocks faulted and folded such as the spectacular cliffs at Hartland Quay, to the evidence for changing sea levels in the more recent past in the 'raised' beaches onshore and drowned forests and cliff lines offshore. And all of this is without mentioning the granite, as that isn't exposed on the coasts but which has a large part to play in the shaping of Devon's landscape!